

Minutes
Middletown Tree Commission
January 30, 2014

Attending: Chuck DiTucci, Tom O'Loughlin, Bill DiMarco, Alan Kirby, and Karen Day

Finances:

- We currently have \$22,769.80 in our account. We owe Moore Blooms approximately \$400 for our Tree Planting Incentive program. They will bill us shortly.
- Alan had met with Tee Jay Boudreau, Coordinator of the Urban & Community Forestry Program on another matter, but Tee Jay told Alan we will receive an America-the-Beautiful grant this year. We have not yet received official notification.

Old Business:

- Locations for maintenance of trees were shared and discussed. It was decided to try to complete the first three locations on the list (see below) and then complete whatever our budget will allow. We can then continue the list to next year and add as necessary.

Location	Need	Cost	Comp.	Notes
Large pin oak on Oliphant Ln. at Oliphant School	Clean up			Over 100 years old
Carpinus on Wyatt Road near ball field	Feed			Don't seem to be thriving.
Locust trees on Valley Road on the pond side	Remove vines			This was done some time ago but need attention again with a more thorough job.
12 Lindens on Meadow Lane across from Chaves Garden	Thinning			
25 mixed trees on Meadow Lane	Thinning			Canopies have been raised but need thinning
18 maples on Unity Drive	Thinning			
Cherries on Green End	Thinning			Alan will look at them to see if anything should be done.

Tom mentioned when construction begins at the Public Works/Fire Department area, special attention will be taken of the large beech tree on the property. They have

already discussed this with the contractor and they will cut the asphalt around the tree to give it more area around the drip area and to protect it from parking equipment. Bill mentioned the cherries on Green End may need planting. Alan said he will take a look at them. Karen will talk to Paul about how he thinks we should handle the bidding process. We hope to finalize the maintenance locations by our next meeting.

- Locations for new plantings were discussed and a list compiled. We will try to plant as many as we can with our budget and also continue this list for future plantings. If members see areas that may benefit from planting, they can bring them to the Commission and they can be added. In that way, we can be prepared each year. It was mentioned, that with all the work we have done, it is getting more difficult to find large areas that require trees.

Location	Number	Species	Cost	Notes	Completion Date
Champlin Pl (off Oliphant Lane)					
Coggeshall Way/Coggeshall Circle (off Oliphant Ln)				Potential for 10-15 trees on Coggeshall Way	
Need to replace broken gingko on East Main Rd. near Plaza Hotel	1			Zelkovas we planted there have done well. Maybe replace with zelkova	
Golden Rod Drive				Some are replacement trees, others new plantings. No pears	
Miantonomi Ave/Collins				A large tree was removed and the homeowner is interested in a replacement	
West View Development				We had planted trees at the entrance but can do more.	
Colony Drive and Squantum				Both of these streets off West Main Road have few trees.	

Sachuest Way	15 trees			Alan feels there is lots of potential for plantings in the area.	
Proposed athletic fields on East Main Road				There is opportunity for tree planting along the road and entrances and perhaps near the field area.	
West Main Road from 2 mile corner towards Newport.				There are several obstacles to overcome in the area and would be a large project.	

When we discussed the Coggeshall Way area, the question was asked if we could plant trees in the triangle near the old farmhouse. Tom said he would look at the area and see if it is public and if there are utilities in the area. Alan agreed that zelkova would be a better choice in the East Main area when we replace the gingko because they have moved the wires in the area. Bill added West View, Squantum, and Colony Drive to the list. There has been some plantings in the area but there is room for more. Alan suggested the Sachuest Way location for multiple plantings. The discussion turned to West Main Road. We discussed the history of the Tree Commission with that area and the reluctance of the business owners, locations of utilities, and snow salt issues. We will put it on the list for perhaps action in the future.

It was suggested if we are going to plant multiple trees in a neighborhood, we create a letter to send to homeowners that may be impacted to give them an opportunity to share their thoughts before planting. Karen said she would create a letter we might use and share with the group.

We discussed the idea of buying the trees wholesale and contracting with local landscapers to plant them. Both Alan and Chuck had reservations. They feel that landscapers will be reluctant to plant trees not purchased from them and we will lose our guarantee for the health of the tree. We will continue the discussion of the purchasing process at our next meeting.

- Bill says he is going to meet with IT about adding a page about the Tree Commission to the Town website. He has pictures in information from Paul. He suggested we could put bid requirements on that page and just put a small ad in the newspaper, directing potential vendors to that site instead of purchasing an expensive ad in the future. Members agreed we should try that. Alan also

suggested it may be possible for us to put an ad for bid requests on the RI Nursey and Landscape Association website. He will check with them.

New Business:

- It was mentioned we might do outreach to the school system, perhaps at the elementary level, to teach about the importance of trees and their care. It was also mentioned we should find some way to include neighborhood homeowners in the planting process when trees are planted to educate them about the care of the tree.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Day, Secretary